



State of Michigan
John Engler, Governor

Bureau of Health Systems

MEMORANDUM

Department of Consumer & Industry Services
Kathleen M. Wilbur, Director

DATE: November 30, 1999

TO: Managers and Operators; Life Support Agencies
Medical Control Authorities; Medical Directors

FROM: John F. Hubinger, Director
Division of Emergency Medical Services

SUBJECT: Clarification; Medical Control Oversight at Special Events;
Life Support Agencies Owned and Operating on Private Properties;
Physician Involvement on Private Property During Emergencies

A number of medical control authorities (MCA's) have contacted our office for statutory clarification as to what medical oversight, if any, they may have relative to the following circumstances:

Circumstance # 1. A life support agency has arranged to provide **on-site** emergency coverage during a special event. For the purpose at hand the following definition applies:

"Special Event" means any activity conducted on private or public property which may or may not be open to the public (such as, but not limited to: sporting or raceway events, local and state fairs).

If a life support agency agrees, whether contractually or otherwise, to provide either personnel or personnel and a vehicle(s) (ambulance/nontransport), the life support agency shall meet MCA protocols established within the geographical area in which the special event occurs, when responding to an emergency. **Note: Should a special event sponsor choose to arrange with licensed individuals who have no affiliation with a life support agency (as described above) to provide on-site emergency care, the MCA may establish protocols which would describe the acts, tasks, and functions those individuals would be required to meet.**

Circumstance #2. A private corporation has its own licensed life support agency providing emergency response within its corporate boundaries, and a physician employed by the corporation is on the premises.

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Two distinctions need to be clarified. First is the matter of responsibility on the part of the life support agency, and secondly, the role of the physician when an emergency is declared.

Life Support Agency-Since a life support agency is licensed by our department, it is required that all applicable conditions under which licensure has been granted be met. This includes compliance with MCA protocols.

Physician Role-During an emergency, the physician on the premises is responsible to the MCA. This means that actions during an emergency, by the on-site physician, must be approved through the authority. The statute allows for a MCA to develop protocols which permit the on-site physician's involvement during emergencies, including the declaration of a non-emergency.

Feel free to contact our office if future questions arise concerning these matters.